

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) Fastening element (1), ~~in particular for blind riveting,~~ having a hollow shank (27) comprising a sethead (4) at ~~its~~a free end, having a deformation segment (2) to form a closure head, and having a connecting segment (28) ~~formed inside the shank (27) and serving to form~~forming a tension-resistant connection to a ~~mandrel (7), in particular the~~a foot (24) of a mandrel (7) inside the shank and having a mandrel head (23) spaced from the sethead (4) of the shank (27), the shank end (3) opposed to the sethead (4) being provided with a punch edge (6) extending ~~essentially along the~~an outermost periphery of the shank (27) and formed by a peripheral surface (26) and a face (25) of the shank end (3), and a blunt projection being provided centrally of the face (25) protruding from ~~the~~a plane in which the punch edge (6) lies, in a direction ~~on the side~~ away from the sethead (4).

2. (currently amended) Fastening element (1), ~~in particular for blind riveting,~~ having a hollow shank (27) comprising a sethead (4) at ~~its~~a free end, having a deformation segment (2) to form a closure head, having a mandrel (7) inside the shank (27), comprising a mandrel head

(23) spaced from the sethead (4) and a mandrel foot (24), the mandrel foot (24) being ~~at least~~ tension-resistantly connected to a shank end (3) opposed to the sethead (4), the shank end (3) comprising a punch edge (6) extending ~~essentially along the~~ an outermost periphery of the shank (27) and formed by a peripheral surface (26) and a face (25) of the shank end (3), and a blunt projection being provided centrally of the face (25), protruding from the plane in which the punch edge (6) lies, in a direction ~~on the side~~ away from the sethead (4).

3. (previously presented) Fastening element according to claim 1, characterized in that the shank end (3) opposed to the sethead (4) is open and the projection is arranged at the foot (24) of the mandrel.

4. (withdrawn) Fastening element according to claim 1, characterized in that the shank end (3) opposed to the sethead (4) is closed and forms the projection with a bottom (35).

5. (cancelled).

6. (withdrawn) Fastening element (1), in particular for blind riveting, having a hollow shank (27) comprising a sethead (4) at its free end, having a deformation segment (2) to form a closure head, having a mandrel (7) inside the shank (27) comprising a mandrel head (23) and a mandrel foot

(24), the mandrel foot (24) being tension-resistantly connected at least to a shank end (3) opposed to the sethead (4) and comprising a punch edge (6) extending essentially along the outermost periphery of the mandrel foot (24), and formed by a peripheral surface (34) and a face (32) of the mandrel foot (24), and a projection (33) being provided in the center of the face (32), protruding from the plane in which the punch edge (6) lies on the side away from the sethead (4).

7. (withdrawn-currently amended) Fastening element (1) according to claim 6~~1~~, characterized in that the projection ~~(33)~~—is offset from the face by a step.

8. (currently amended) Fastening element (1) according to claim 1, characterized in that the face (25) passes smoothly from the punch edge (6) into the projection, and the height of the projection measured from a plane in which the punch edge lies is a fraction of the diameter, or mean diameter, of the punch edge.

9. (currently amended) Fastening element (1) according to claim 1, characterized in that the height of the projection measured from ~~the~~a plane in which the punch edge lies is 2.5% to 5% of the diameter, or mean diameter, of the punch edge.

10. (currently amended) Fastening element (1) according to claim 1, characterized in that the face (25, 32) has a shape conforming to a conical or pyramidal surface tapering down in ~~the~~a punching direction.

11. (previously presented) Fastening element (1) according to claim 1, characterized in that the cross-section of the fastening element (1) is substantially circular.

12. (currently amended) Fastening element (1) according to claim 1, characterized in that the peripheral surface (26) is a right circular cylindrical surface and the face (25) and the peripheral surface (26) make an included angle of 93° to 96° with each other.

13. (currently amended) Fastening element (1) according to claim 1, characterized in that ~~the~~a cross-section of the fastening element (1) is substantially polygonal.

14. (previously presented) Fastening element (1) according to claim 1, characterized in that the mandrel head (23) is widened.

15. (currently amended) Fastening element (1) according to claim 1, characterized in that the shank end (3) or the mandrel foot (24), at least in the region of the

punch edge (6), is hardened to make it stronger, ~~in particular hardened.~~

16. (previously presented) Fastening element according to claim 2, characterized in that the shank end (3) opposed to the sethead (4) is open and the projection is arranged at the foot (24) of the mandrel.

17. (withdrawn) Fastening element according to claim 2, characterized in that the shank end (3) opposed to the sethead (4) is closed and forms the projection with a bottom (35).

18. (currently amended) Fastening element according to claim 2, characterized in that, inside the shank (27), a connecting segment (28) ~~is formed, serving to form~~forms a tension-resistant connection with the ~~mandrel (7), in particular the foot (24) of the mandrel (7).~~

19. (withdrawn) Fastening element (1) according to claim 2, characterized in that the projection (33) is offset from the face by a step.

20. (currently amended) Fastening element (1) according to claim 2, characterized in that the face (25) passes smoothly from the punch edge (6) into the projection, and the height of the projection measured from a plane in

which the punch edge lies is a fraction of the diameter, or mean diameter, of the punch edge.

21. (currently amended) Fastening element (1) according to claim 2, characterized in that the height of the projection measured from ~~the~~a plane in which the punch edge lies is 2.5% to 5% of the diameter, or mean diameter, of the punch edge.

22. (currently amended) Fastening element (1) according to claim 2, characterized in that the face (25, 32) has a shape conforming to a conical or pyramidal surface tapering down in ~~the~~a punching direction.

23. (previously presented) Fastening element (1) according to claim 2, characterized in that the cross-section of the fastening element (1) is substantially circular.

24. (currently amended) Fastening element (1) according to claim 2, characterized in that the peripheral surface (26) is a right circular cylindrical surface and the face (25) and the peripheral surface (26) make an included angle of 93° to 96° with each other.

25. (currently amended) Fastening element (1) according to claim 2, characterized in that ~~the~~a cross-

section of the fastening element (1) is substantially polygonal.

26. (previously presented) Fastening element (1) according to claim 2, characterized in that the mandrel head (23) is widened.

27. (currently amended) Fastening element (1) according to claim 2, characterized in that the shank end (3) or the mandrel foot (24), at least in the region of the punch edge (6), is hardened to make it stronger, ~~in particular hardened~~.

28. (withdrawn) Fastening element (1) according to claim 6, characterized in that the projection (33) is offset from the face by a step.

29. (cancelled).

30. (withdrawn) Fastening element (1) according to claim 6, characterized in that the height of the projection measured from the plane in which the punch edge lies is 2.5% to 5% of the diameter, or mean diameter, of the punch edge.

31. (cancelled)

32. (withdrawn) Fastening element (1) according to claim 6, characterized in that the cross-section of the fastening element (1) is substantially circular.

33. (cancelled).

34. (withdrawn) Fastening element (1) according to claim 6, characterized in that the cross-section of the fastening element (1) is substantially polygonal.

35. (withdrawn) Fastening element (1) according to claim 6, characterized in that the mandrel head (23) is widened.

36. (withdrawn) Fastening element (1) according to claim 6, characterized in that the shank end (3) or the mandrel foot (24), at least in the region of the punch edge (6), is stronger, in particular hardened.